

ESSA Newsletter

News regarding ESSA State Plan decision points



Cycle Two

June 2016



Public Input Shapes Outcomes

The Vermont Agency of Education has identified more than 60 discrete decision points to consider when drafting the state plan responding to ESSA requirements, which will be submitted to the US Department of Education for review in early 2017. Public input is gathered around many of these decision points; an example of input drastically impacting Agency thinking is described below.

The Agency recently considered how Local Education Agencies (LEAs) should apply for ESSA School Improvement grants awarded by the state. The AOE leaned toward a competitive process, believing that it would reward LEAs that presented meticulous applications. At a stakeholder's meeting in late March we presented our thinking and solicited feedback. What we heard completely altered our recommendation.

Schools argued that competitive bids would benefit peers that had deep community resources over schools most in need of support; instead, and advocated for a formula grant application. They also framed this recommendation as being better aligned with the Agency's state plan decision protocol (right).

Upon reflection, we realized that a formula bid was more **equitable** (would reach the schools most in need), **aligned** (targeted at greatest performance gaps), **efficient** (reduced administration), and **possible** (LEA/AOE staff currently collaborating). Our ultimate decision? A formula grant process suggested by the public.

How Do I Get Involved?

On 10-11 August, the AOE is hosting a public input retreat to consider multiple questions related to the drafting of the state plan. Please visit our website for further details on this retreat. You can also review all processed and pending ESSA decision points, along with other ESSA updates:

<http://education.vermont.gov/essa>.



THE VERMONT EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

A journey.



FUTURE

Achieving a coherent system of education in Vermont to ensure all students succeed

THE ESSA STATE PLAN: CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT

This plan is required by the federal government, and will describe how the state intends to meet ESSA requirements, while also preserving the spirit and critical components of EQS and EQR



EDUCATION QUALITY REVIEWS

These reviews combine peer-to-peer discussions of quantitative school data with examinations of more qualitative measures that hadn't been a part of accountability conversations previously

THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT (ESSA):

ESSA replaces NCLB as the nation's guiding body of education law. It has elements in common with both NCLB and EQS, and its implications for Vermont's future are still being teased out

EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS (EQS):

Reflects the values and priorities of Vermont educators: emphasizing the importance of personalizing instruction and assessment, and framing school reviews that incorporate performance measures

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB):

Schools' effectiveness was primarily determined by examining their math and English standardized test scores

